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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/729,651	12/04/2000	Hyun Gi Choi	9983.106US01	3074
23552	7590	05/03/2004		
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
			EXAMINER MAHMOUDI, HASSAN	
			ART UNIT 2175	PAPER NUMBER 12

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/729,651

Applicant(s)

CHOI ET AL.

Examiner

Tony Mahmoudi

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9-11,13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11,13 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 22-July-2003, Claims 1-6, 8, and 12 are cancelled, and claims 7, 11, and 13 are amended per applicant's request. Therefore, claims 7, 9-11, and 13-14 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 7, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they include non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 7, as amended, recites:

“An internet address system introducing a zip code system, comprising:

a top level aggregation identifier;

a zip code field classified by the zip code system, the zip code field comprising a high level area code field for distinguishing high level areas, a middle level area code field for distinguishing middle level areas, and a low level area code field for distinguishing low level areas; and

a subscriber identification field which is a final identifier field.”

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There is no clear definition in the "data structure" claim as to how the two entities relate to each other. A data structure claim should clearly indicate the inter-relationship of the functional elements of the structure. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 7, as amended, also appears to be non-functional descriptive material, which is not stored on a computer readable medium. A claim must not be directed merely as "non-functional descriptive material", but must instead be either "a series of steps to be performed on a computer", "stored on a computer readable medium" or, "a machine or manufacturer for performing a process." Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are dependent from the rejected independent claim 7.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 11 and 13-14 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record, Dunworth et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,474), Feldmeier et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,414), MeLampy (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,186), Kushita (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,518), and Kazunari (Japanese Patent No. 408163173A) do not disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claim):

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the hierarchical routing process further comprising:

a first step wherein a router of a high level area code hierarchy identifies a high level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding high level area;

a second step wherein a router of a middle level area code hierarchy identifies a middle level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding middle level area;

a third step wherein a router of a low level area code hierarchy identifies a low level area code in the zip code system, and forwards to a corresponding low level area; and

a fourth step wherein a router of a subscriber ID number hierarchy identifies a subscriber ID number, and routes to a destination identical to the subscriber ID number, as claimed in the amended claim 11.

Claims 13 and 14 are allowed over the prior art made of record because they are dependent from the allowed amended independent claim 11.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmoudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

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April 27, 2004


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER